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COMMERCIAL.

SATURDAY, March 22, 1884.

Business has not improved any during the week past, the supplies on hand being fully equal to the demand and probably in excess. Pending further news from the Coast, which we hope to receive to-day per Alameda, there is an evident disinclination to do business of a speculative nature. Plantation orders are merely sufficient to meet their immediate requirements, notwithstanding the outturn of sugar being large in every district.

The receipts of our staple product for the week amount to 27,000 packages, and as similar, or more probably an increased quantity will be received during the ensuing week, the O. S. S. Co.'s steamer Alameda will be dispatched with another full load.

The arrivals for the week comprise the S. S. Zealandia from the Colonies; the barkentine Amelia from Port Townsend; whaling barks Atlantic and Hunter from San Francisco, Mars from New Bedford; brig Wm. G. Irwin and barkentine Discovery from San Francisco, and bark Helena from Hong.

The departures consist of the S. S. Mariposa, S. S. City of Rio de Janeiro, S. S. Zealandia, and barkentine W. H. Dimond for San Francisco, and whaling bark Atlantic for the Arctic.

There has been little or no change of stock during the week, but we have to report that the Hawaiian Hotel has changed hands, Dr. J. S. McGrew having disposed of his interest in that large and commodious establishment to Messrs. Geo. W. Macfarlane & Co.

By the Discovery from San Francisco, a large and valuable lot of stock and cattle arrived. On Monday next seven of the finest horses ever imported into the Kingdom will be brought to the hammer at the request of Mr. H. J. Agnew.

The Helena, after a long passage from Hongkong, has placed upon the market an unusually large quantity of Chinese ware, including some valuable granite for sidewalks, &c.

EDITORIAL ARTICLES.

[FROM THE DAILY P. C. A.]

VERY high rates of exchange are now ruling between this city and San Francisco, and, as a consequence of this, with other parts of the world also. Practically all our exchange transactions with other countries are settled in San Francisco, because all our more important exports find their immediate market there, or if not there still through the intervention of San Francisco agents. It is the course of exchange between here and San Francisco, therefore which the business man has to watch since it regulates the whole exchange business of the country. At the present moment exchange on San Francisco is very high. It has been costly for a long time and latterly has been rapidly increasing in price. When it stood at about half its present rate we pointed out the causes which had carried it to that price. Since that time our staple article of export has begun to come forward freely and some mitigation of the former state of things was to have been expected. During the interval however a new disturbing influence has arisen. A large quantity of coin has been imported which was to have been paid for in Government bonds. So far as we can learn it has been, to a very large extent, paid for by drafts against sugar shipments. In this way one house which used always to have considerable sums of exchange on San Francisco for sale has had none to offer, and has become a buyer instead of a seller. This single circumstance is quite enough of itself to account for the high price of exchange on San Francisco. It may however be remarked that others be-

sides the new Bank have of late been importers of coin, just at the time when the condition of exchange seemed to threaten that coin would have to be exported.

We do not propose to discuss the question who is to blame for all this or whether blame can be fairly put on the shoulders of any one. The Government evidently believed they were acting for the best interests of the country when they made the arrangement in pursuance of which the large importation of coin took place. That those who took action to prevent the issue of Government Bonds in payment for that coin also believed that they were acting for the best interests of the country may also be conceded. The results are before us and the only question worth considering is that of a remedy for, or amelioration of, what is certainly an anomalous state of things. Not that the high rate of exchange is bad for every one. At the present juncture when sugar is so low this exchange, if the producer gets the benefit of it (as he would in any other country) is a stroke of good fortune to him being equal to something like a quarter of a cent per pound on his sugar. What he gains however does not come out of the pockets of foreign consumers but out of that of his own neighbors, the importing merchants and of sundry other smaller people; so his blessing is by no means an unmixed one.

One way of mitigating the condition of things presents itself. The Government has been calling in foreign silver coins which have for some years been allowed to pass current here as dollars and quarters. This has been done very quietly but already there is an accumulation of these coins in the Treasury large enough, if shipped away as bullion and drawn against, to moderate the rate of exchange at once. The universal sense of the community is that all this foreign coin should be withdrawn from circulation at the expense of the State since it was the State itself which gave it position and currency. One of the first things that the Legislature should be asked to do is to legalize action of this sort. If this be done, we may, within a very few weeks, see a favorable change in the position of exchange. Moreover, an announcement that the Government would present such a measure to the Legislature would relieve many anxieties and check many speculative attempts to force exchange higher and higher. The country will have to sustain a loss on the Mexican, French and Spanish and other pieces which are current as money here. The only question to be settled is whether the State or the individual holders of the coin shall be saddled with this loss, and we cannot doubt what the answer of the Legislature will be to this question. Whether wisely or unwisely, the Legislature has by its action given a current value to these coins. Whether wisely or unwisely, the Legislature has rendered them superfluous by establishing a domestic coinage. Individuals ought not, and must not suffer for these Legislative acts, and as things now stand, it is evident that a double benefit will accrue from having the thing adjusted quickly and this surplus coin exported to the best market that can be found for it.

A STATEMENT about Mr. Flowerdew's case was by oversight admitted into our column of local news Thursday, which gives an improper impression of the position of this affair. Regretting that a statement unfair to Mr. Flowerdew (with whose position we have great sympathy) should have appeared in this paper, we sought and have obtained from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and from the British Commissioner, exact information on the subject, and leave to publish the same. Mr. Flowerdew appealed to the British Government to use its influence to obtain payment of a claim for losses sustained by him through his contract with the late Minister of the Interior being declared void. The British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs considered that as the grant of the tramway concession had been pronounced by the Supreme Court to be *ultra vires*, this decision must, unless reversed by the same authority, be taken as the law of the case, and that therefore the Hawaiian Government is not legally responsible. Earl Granville, however, very justly thinks that Mr. Flowerdew's

case is a hard one, and expresses on behalf of the British Government a hope that, although a personal remedy against Mr. Bush may exist, the Hawaiian Government will be disposed to take an equitable view of the case without prejudice to their legal rights and will award of their own accord to Mr. Flowerdew such reasonable indemnity as the nature of the case may warrant.

Earl Granville's opinion, and the hope he has given expression to, have been duly communicated to His Majesty's Government, who have promised to give the matter careful consideration. It is, of course, out of the power of Ministers to accede to the wish of the British Government—the Legislature alone can make such a grant as is here asked for. We hope, however, that the Government will deal with the case in a liberal spirit, and will support in the legislature any petition that may be presented on Mr. Flowerdew's behalf for a grant of at least so much as will cover his loss out of pocket.

THE Hawaiian Hotel has again changed hands. Some particulars as to the transfer will be found in our column of local news, and the community, to whom the well being of this hotel is of some interest, may be congratulated on the fact that it has passed into the hands of a firm whose established reputation is a guarantee that it will be conducted in such a style as to satisfy the most fastidious so far as that is possible in Honolulu. Catering for the inner man is a thing of no small difficulty in this country, as anyone who has tried housekeeping here must be well aware. There are difficulties as to supplies, and still worse difficulties as to cooks and other servants, and the housekeeper who surmounts these, and in spite of them all succeeds even with unlimited means in having a good meal of any sort put on the table has accomplished something to be proud of. The difficulties are enhanced when it comes to the question of catering for a public hotel, frequented by those who are familiar with the best establishments of the sort in the great cities of the world. That these difficulties have not always been successfully combated at the Hawaiian Hotel is matter of notoriety, but those who have had enough experience of life in Honolulu to fit them to be judges, have always been inclined to take a lenient view of matters. We sincerely trust that, with their ample resources and experience of affairs, the new proprietors will be able quickly to establish a first-class reputation for the hotel.

The policy which made the building of the Hotel a national task was hotly combated by a few, but was backed by the approval of a large part of the community. The building itself is a credit to those who took the thing in hand, and to the city. Its late owner has made immense improvements in the premises, and made them exactly in the right direction, and deserves the thanks of the community for having done so much so well. That the firm into whose hands the hotel has passed will continue this march of improvement no one who knows the men can doubt. We wish them every success, not only in making the Hawaiian Hotel one of the most pleasant places of resort, whether for tourists or for citizens, but also in securing that return for their outlay and pluck which is their just due.

THINGS IN GENERAL.

What particularly concerns the employees in this city just now is whether or not they are to have one half holiday during the week. From the correspondence that has appeared in the newspapers on this subject, I should judge that all are agreed that such a step would be acceptable and beneficial to their general health. There seems, however, to be a difference of opinion as to which is the best day in the week to have the holiday. I say Saturday by all means. It is the end of the week, and the very time that one enjoys a holiday. Let work go along steadily on that day until 1 p. m. and then let the whistles blow as a signal for all hands to have a little recreation. Of course I intend that there should be no midday recess for the so-called dinner or lunch. All the employer would lose in the way of

labor would be two hours per week, and his gain would be infinitely more.

Whilst on the subject of holidays, I am reminded of the "half-hearted" (that appears to be the correct word now) manner in which holidays are kept in this city. The Government holidays are eight in number, viz.: New Year's Day; Accession of Kala-ka-ua, Feb. 13; Kamehameha III. Birthday, March 17; Good Friday; Kamehameha Day, June 11; His Majesty's Birthday, November 16; Recognition of Hawaiian Independence, November 28; and Christmas Day, December 25. They are certainly few and far between and if all were rigidly observed by the merchant and mechanic as well as by the Government servant, it would not be too much to ask. With the exception of the bank and perhaps two or three of the leading commission houses they are not observed at all. To open a store at 7 o'clock in the morning and to keep your employees hanging around doing nothing until nearly midday, is no holiday at all. Why not shut up punctually at 5 p. m. the day previous to the holiday and not open until the regular hour on the day following the holiday. It is done in other parts of the world without loss or detriment to the employer, therefore why can it not be accomplished in Honolulu? A whole holiday would enable arrangements to be made for a "day out of town," but the present style of doing things prevents young and old getting beyond the precincts of the city.

Who has not been to the circus? It has proved a great attraction and would tend to show that money is not as "tight" as the writers of the serious commercial articles in your weekly papers would try to make the world believe. Three thousand dollars is not to be sneezed at as a *quid pro quo* for the first three nights performances. It would be well if the theatre were equally well patronized when the opportunity occurs of hearing some first class company.

This reminds me that as the theatre has changed hands it would be advisable to also change the name. To call it a Music Hall is a mistake and likely to mislead artists abroad. Such a neatly appointed and handsome playhouse deserves a better and more attractive name than a "Music Hall." I decline to suggest a name, but will endorse the change when made. "What's in a name?" etc.

The hackmen are delighted with the circus, notwithstanding that they have to spend most of their time outside the tent and save their dollar. What they most admire about it is that the performance is over a few minutes after ten o'clock, just in time to let them demand double fares and be supported by the law. Speaking of hackmen, I will venture to ask them when they propose to carry change. A quarter once put in their hands, is there for ever. For a ten cent fare they do not even venture to tender a dime in return, notwithstanding that they would then be five cents ahead of their fare. A hackman never makes a mistake (on the wrong side).

A stranger in this city observed to me one day last week while taking an evening stroll, that he was under the impression from what he recollected of his day's doings, that there were lamp-posts in this city. I replied, "You're right, my friend, and be careful you do not run against one before you get home." For the further information of my observant friend, I reminded him that it was only a few days after full moon, and that the dark spell from 7 to 9 p. m. was the usual thing, and a matter he would soon get accustomed to in this city.

Speaking of these petty grievances calls to my mind the thousand and one fault-finders I have heard during the past two years, and when I have enquired why there should be any grounds for such grumbling, I have invariably been informed that "so-and-so can only be rectified by the Legislature; that all-powerful body meets in 1884 when everything will be set right." Let us thank our stars that the millennium is approaching. Fancy, only seven weeks to wait before the wheels that constitute the vital part of the machinery of this little Kingdom, will be greased and perform

their work perfectly. A thought occurs to me, however: who is to remind our astute legislators of all we want? They cannot be expected to know everything that is wanted to make Honolulu a "Model city." Would it not facilitate their labors and help us to accomplish our several objects if a public meeting were called and a list of petitions drawn up instead of allowing the session to pass over and virtually nothing done.

I learn from your columns that a new Police Station is to be erected in the heart of the city. I agree with the policemen and think the site is an unsuitable one. The present lot on King Street is preferable for many reasons, not the least of which is the ample room that there is on that thoroughfare for the several horses, hacks and bangers on that congregate in the neighborhood of a Station House.

I sometimes look in at the Station House when "His Honor" is on the bench. I have even waited patiently and heard ten or a dozen witnesses examined on an "affray" case and a sentence of five, ten, or more days imprisonment passed upon the unfortunate couple who had had a difference of opinion. I have seen the harmless looking Chinaman committed to the reef for a month and fined \$50 for being found asleep within ten or fifteen feet of an opium pipe. Imprisonment means hard labor, and hard labor means being mixed up with the worst felons in the Kingdom. The garrotter and burglar are just as well off as the unfortunate who is committed for disturbing the "quiet of night," or being a "disorderly person." The man who is in for seven years has equal rights with the man who is in for seven days. In my opinion the hardened criminal, and old offender ought to be kept aloof from those serving short sentences for minor offences.

Passing from the unpleasant to the more pleasant side of life, I am reminded that the great National Holiday, and the only day in the year that is devoted to horseracing, is approaching. Gentlemen interested in horseracing ought to be making their preliminary arrangements for the several events to take place on the 11th of June next. It is not too late to form a Race Club who would take charge of races that take place at the Park. Instead of depending upon voluntary subscriptions to make up cups on race days, the annual subscriptions and entrance fees of members would in a few years constitute a fund sufficient to render the Race Club independent of the donations of those who do not appreciate horse-racing. Where is the new Grand Stand that has been talked about for the past two or three years? The present apology for a stand is unfit for ladies and gentlemen. I hope that some of our leading sporting men will take this matter in hand at once and by their combined efforts place our race meetings on such a footing as to be beyond reproach.

CROWQUILL.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements made, or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

MR. EDITOR:—After reading the report in the ADVERTISER regarding the Julia, furnished by me on my return from Australia, I beg to say it is correct. Yours, etc.

F. H. MACY.

Belgian drunkenness has increased greatly of late. The number of drinking establishments has considerably more than doubled since 1850, the number now being about 125,000, as against 53,097 in that year, although the increase of population during the same period has only been about 25 per cent.

A man will burn his fingers lighting a cigar with a piece of paper and makes no fuss about it, but when his wife asks him to set the tea-kettle over, and he takes hold of the warm handle, he is mad enough to wreck the kitchen.

A Poughkeepsie clergyman gave notice of a special church service to be held in the afternoon, concluding by saying that it would be gratifying if "the choir would be present—at least those that can sing." And now the choir is making it so hot for the preacher that he is open to a call from elsewhere.